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U.S.S.N. 10/051,048

Claim Amendments

Please amend claims 1, 3, 8, 9, 12, 15, and 18 as follows:

Please cancel claims 6, 14, and 20 as follows:

Please add new claims 21 - 23 as follows:

Claims as Amended

1. (currently amended) A strainer comprising:

an elongated conduit;

a substantially conical filter housing extending from said conduit in obtuse angular relationship to a longitudinal axis of said conduit and a direction of fluid flow;

a filter contained in said filter housing, said filter extending from said filter housing to intercept said fluid flowing through the conduit; and

a drain valve provided on said filter housing lower

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end, said lower end comprising a smaller diameter end of said conical filter housing, said drain valve openable for flushing said filter without interrupting said fluid flow through said conduit.

2. (original) The strainer of claim 1 wherein said filter is removably contained in said filter housing.
3. (currently amended) The strainer of claim 1 wherein both said filter housing and said filter have a substantially conical configuration.
4. (original) The strainer of claim 3 wherein said filter is removably contained in said filter housing.
5. (currently amended) The strainer of claim [[2]] 1 further comprising a cap opening provided in said conduit for removing and replacing said filter in said filter housing and a cap engaging said conduit for reversibly closing said cap opening.
6. cancelled.
7. (original) The strainer of claim 1 further comprising a pair

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of end flanges provided at respective ends of said conduit.

8. (currently amended) The strainer of claim [[7]] 1 wherein both said filter housing and said filter have a substantially conical configuration, wherein said filter is removably contained in said filter housing and further comprising a cap opening provided in said conduit for removing and replacing said filter in said filter housing and a cap engaging said conduit for reversibly closing said cap opening.

9. (currently amended) A wet scrubber comprising:

a chamber;

a fluid drain line provided in fluid communication with said chamber;

an elongated conduit having a first end provided in fluid communication with said fluid drain line and a second end spaced from said first end;

a fluid return line provided in fluid communication

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with said second end of said conduit;

a substantially conical filter housing extending from said conduit in obtuse angular relationship to a longitudinal axis of said conduit and a fluid flow direction;

a filter provided in said filter housing, said filter extending from said filter housing to intercept fluid flowing through the conduit; and

a drain valve provided on said filter housing lower end, said lower end comprising a smaller diameter end of said conical filter housing, said drain valve openable for flushing said filter without interrupting said fluid flow.

10. (original) The wet scrubber of claim 9 wherein said filter is removably contained in said filter housing.

11. (original) The wet scrubber of claim 10 further comprising a cap opening provided in said conduit for removing and replacing said filter in said filter housing and a cap removably engaging said conduit for reversibly closing said cap opening.

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12. (currently amended) The wet scrubber of claim ~~[[11]]~~ 9 wherein both said filter housing and said filter have a substantially conical configuration such that said filter is removeably fitted into said filter housing.

13. (original) The wet scrubber of claim 9 further comprising a first pressure monitor provided in said fluid drain line for measuring a first fluid pressure, a second pressure monitor provided in said fluid return line for measuring a second fluid pressure and a controller connected to said first pressure monitor, said second pressure monitor and said drain valve for operating said drain valve when said first fluid pressure measured by said first pressure monitor exceeds said second fluid pressure measured by said second pressure monitor by a predetermined value.

14. cancelled

15. (currently amended) A cooling system comprising:

a cooling tower;

a water drain line provided in fluid communication with

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said cooling tower;

an elongated conduit having a first end provided in fluid communication with said water drain line and a second end spaced from said first end;

a water return line provided in fluid communication with said second end of said conduit;

a substantially conical filter housing extending from said conduit in obtuse angular relationship to a longitudinal axis of said conduit and a fluid flow direction;

a filter provided in said filter housing, said filter extending from said filter housing to intercept fluid flowing through the conduit; and

a drain valve provided on said filter housing lower end, said lower end comprising a smaller diameter end of said conical filter housing, said drain valve openable for flushing said filter without interrupting said fluid flow.

16. (original) The cooling system of claim 15 wherein said filter

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is removably contained in said filter housing.

17. (original) The cooling system of claim 16 further comprising a cap opening provided in said conduit for removing and replacing said filter in said filter housing and a cap removably engaging said conduit for reversibly closing said cap opening.

18. (currently amended) The cooling system of claim ~~[[17]]~~ 15 wherein said filter housing and said filter have a substantially conical configuration such that said filter is removeably fitted into said filter housing.

19. (original) The cooling system of claim 15 further comprising a first pressure monitor provided in said water drain line for measuring a first water pressure, a second pressure monitor provided in said water return line for measuring a second water pressure and a controller connected to said first pressure monitor, said second pressure monitor and said drain valve for operating said drain valve when said first water pressure measured by said first pressure monitor exceeds said second water pressure measured by said second pressure monitor by a predetermined value.

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20. cancelled

21. (new) The strainer of claim 1 wherein said filter extends from said filter housing to engage the curved interior surface of the conduit.

22. (new) The wet scrubber of claim 9 wherein said filter extends from said filter housing to engage the curved interior surface of the conduit.

23. (new) The cooling system of claim 15 wherein said filter extends from said filter housing to engage the curved interior surface of the conduit.

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